

SELFIDGE FIELD, BUILDING NO. 832  
(Heavy Equipment Building)  
(Old Roads and Grounds Building)  
West of Mulberry St., south of Johnson St.  
Mt. Clemens vicinity  
Macomb County  
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-II

HAER  
MICH  
50-MTCL.E.V.  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Great Lakes Systems Office  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, NE 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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SELFRIDGE FIELD  
BUILDING #832, HEAVY EQUIPMENT BUILDING  
(Old Roads and Grounds Building)

HAER No. MI-116-II

Location: West of Mulberry Street south of Johnson Street  
Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mt. Clemens vicinity,  
Macomb County, Michigan  
U.S.G.S. Mount Clemens East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 17.350180.4719240

Significance: This building represents the metal prefabricated buildings erected as Selfridge expanded rapidly to meet its Cold War era defense mission, and its functional nature is typical of the spartan buildings built for the military during this period.

Description: This building is composed of two units, a side gabled rectangular plan, 40 foot by 200 foot 6 inch, single story, steel frame building sheathed in ribbed galvanized metal panels and a concrete block 15 foot 6 inch by 21 foot 6 inch shed roof bay that extends off the east elevation. The side gabled metal bays are prefabricated, with metal panels bolted directly to the steel frame wall girts and roof purlins by galvanized machine and stove bolts. The entire building rests on a concrete slab and the metal bays are shielded by seamed metal panels while the concrete block bay displays rolled asphalt roofing.

The principal (south) elevation fronts on a large paved lot and is composed of four large vehicular entrance voids, each flanked by steel pedestrian entry doors and functionally positioned steel tack sliding windows, while the shed roof concrete unit reveal two bays defined by steel pedestrian entry door and an adjacent double steel door. The east elevation is composed of the concrete block unit that is pierced by a wood frame sash window, while the projecting adjacent concrete block boiler room displays a metal pipe stack. The piercing pattern of the rear (north) elevation defines 11 bays formed by a variety of sliding rack replacement windows. The west elevation present a functional piercing pattern of two fixed steel windows below the gable, an off center pedestrian steel entry door and three window voids and an exhaust hood vent.

The interior is composed primary of two large vehicular access bays/work areas that originally served as a welding shop and service cells. However, five small office/parts areas occur at the

east end of the building, the office accessed by a door at the southeast corner of the structure, the remainder accessible through interior doors of the vehicle bay and up stairs on a small balcony at the northeast corner of the building. The shed roofed concrete unit functioned as an Equipment Room and also housed the latrine. Two workshop rooms occur on a balcony near the middle of the building between the two large vehicular bays, each accessible from both bays. Two small storage rooms also occur on a balcony at the west end of the building, accessible from the vehicular bay. Three-level steel wall racks occur along the north side of the work bays and insulation has been applied to the interior ceilings.

The building has been renovated and upgraded, its functional fenestration pattern altered, and virtually all window voids contain replacement windows for the original steel sash.

History:

This "Heavy Equipment Building" was erected in 1954 from plans provided by Edward M. Newman, Architect, of Detroit and approved by the U.S. Navy Department of Yards and Docks.<sup>1</sup> This prefabricated building was provided in kit form by the Butler Manufacturing Company of Indianapolis. The interior exhaust system was upgraded in 1975, the wooden overhead vehicular bay doors were replaced in 1982, and the roof was repaired in 1985.<sup>2</sup>

Sources:

Anonymous, Brief History of Selfridge Air Force Base, 1917-1960, unpublished ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1960.

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Narducci, Henry M., SAC and the Alert Program: A Brief History,

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<sup>1</sup>Original construction plans on file, Selfridge Base Museum and Base Civil Engineers Office

<sup>2</sup>Original construction plans on file, Selfridge Base Museum and Base Civil Engineers Office

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Base, Michigan, 1977.

Original plans on file, dated September 4, 1964, Edward M.  
Newman Architect, Detroit, "Floor Plan, Elevations, Sections,  
Details-Mechanical, SLF 210 097, in possession of Selfridge Base  
Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base  
Museum, October 13, 1995.

Interview, Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management,  
October 12, 1995.

Historian:

William E. Rutter  
Midwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
May, 1996